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BIWEEKLY REPORT

COMMUNIST STATEMENTS REGARDING INTERVENTION
IN VIETNAM AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS

15 February 1966

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.
15 February 1966

MEMORANDUM

Attached is a compilation of Communist statements on possible direct military intervention in the Vietnam situation, and on possible negotiations toward a settlement, received since our biweekly report (OCI No. 1057/66) issued 1 February 1966.

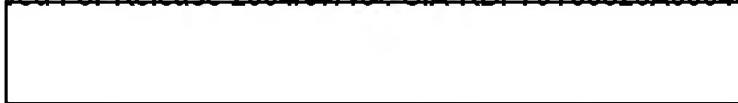
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SUMMARY

NEGOTIATIONS

USSR Moscow's position on the subject of negotiations has not changed in the last two weeks.

China Peking has blasted the US move to take the Vietnam problem to the UN, and has reiterated its opposition to any negotiated settlement except on the Communist terms.

DRV Hanoi's standard position of a settlement of the Vietnam war was expounded in a letter to the socialist countries and other nations interested in the Vietnam war. In his letter, Ho restated Hanoi's determination to continue the war until a settlement can be reached on Communist terms. He also attempted to counter the recent US peace moves with

INTERVENTION

The Soviet Union's public expressions of support for the DRV have given no indication of change in Moscow's position.

The Chinese are continuing their generalized public statements of support for Vietnam, which continue to imply that Peking will not take the lead in provoking a war with the US. Chinese private and public statements emphasize that the possibility of a US attack on China is increasing with the escalation of the war in Vietnam but Peking probably does not regard war with the US as likely at least this summer.

There have been no significant statements by the North Vietnamese during this period on the subject on intervention.

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NEGOTIATIONSINTERVENTION

DRV: with the claim that they
Cont'd were all a "trick" de-
signed to cover up fur-
ther American "aggres-
sive action" in South
Vietnam.

In addition, recent
statements from Hanoi
while restating the four-
point solution to the war
have laid heavy emphasis
on the role of the Front
in any settlement. They
have pointed out that re-
cognition of the Front and
its programme is a "very
important" part of the
four-point settlement
and as such must be
recognized by the US.

NFLSV The Liberation Front has
over the past two weeks
offered only the standard
reiteration of its posi-
tion on settling the war.
It has praised President Ho
Chi Minh's letter and re-
iterated its determination
to continue the war until
a settlement can be achieved
on Communist terms.

There have been no signi-
ficant statements by the
Liberation Front during
this period on the subject
of intervention.

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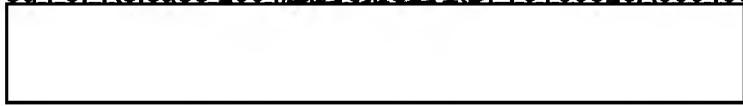


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COMMUNIST STATEMENTS ON INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM

Selected Soviet Statements on Intervention

Selected Soviet
Public Statements

Selected Soviet
Private Statements

Comments

31 January 1966: An Izvestia commentator reiterated the standard Soviet line that, "the Soviet people have always rendered and will go on rendering assistance to the fraternal people of Vietnam."

31 January 1966: A Soviet Government statement on the US resumption of bombing repeated the Soviet pledge that, "true to its internationalist duty the Soviet Union will continue giving the DRV the necessary aid and support."

1 February 1966: Soviet President Podgorny, in reply to Ho Chi Minh's message of 24 January, stated, "the Soviet Union will continue rendering assistance to the fraternal DRV in strengthening its defense capacity."

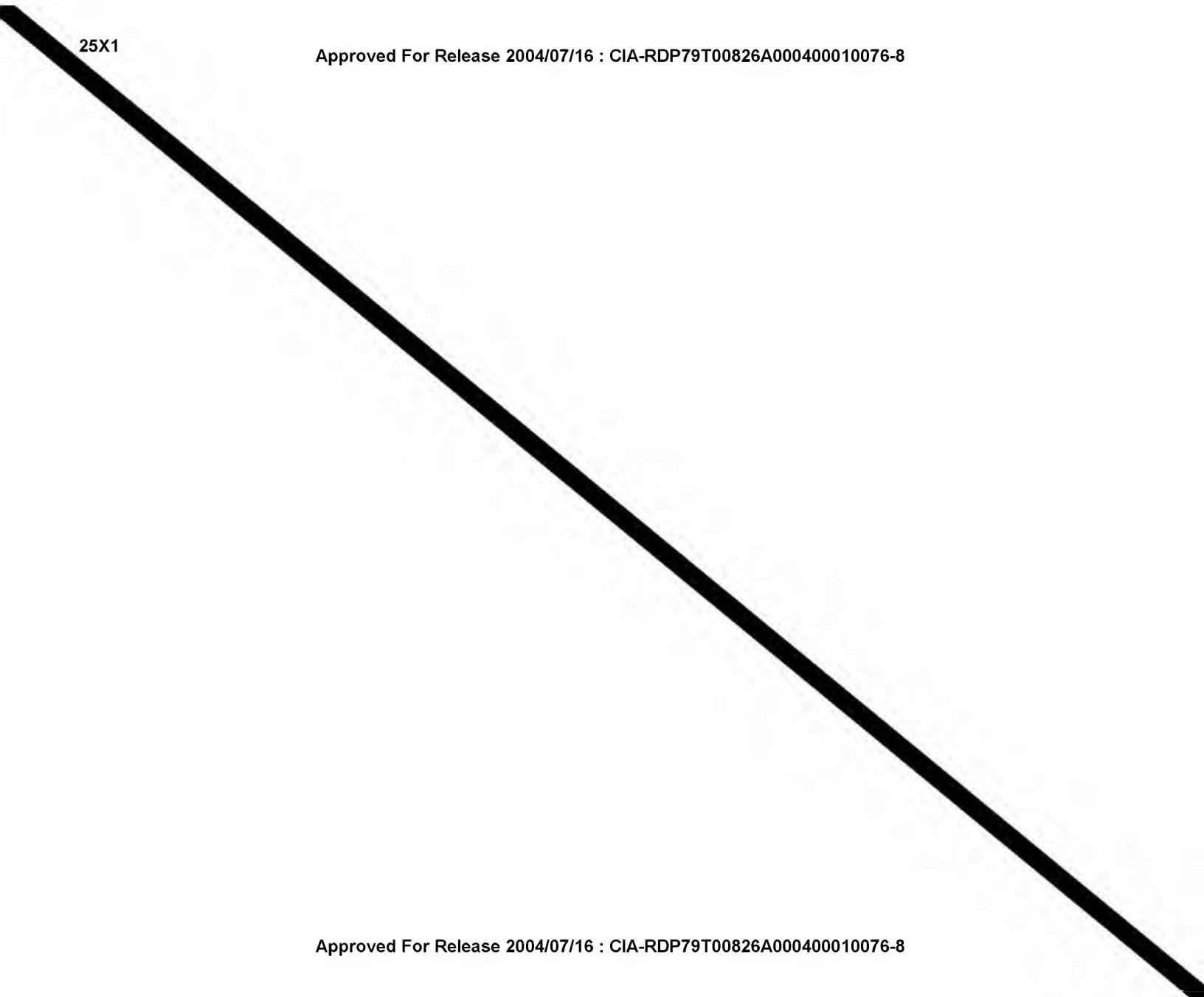
The Soviet Union's public expressions of support for the DRV have given no indication of change in its position.

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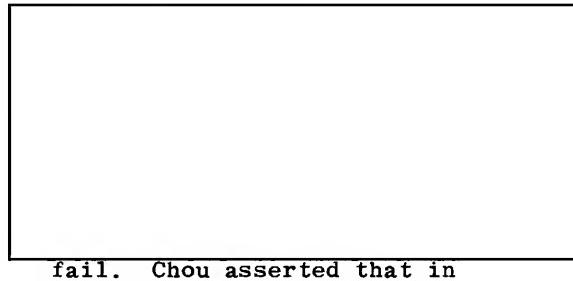
Selected Chinese Communist References to Intervention

Selected Chinese
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Private Statements

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Chou's reported comments parallel Peking's propaganda predictions of US plans for escalating the war and their ultimate failure. The timetable, however, is new and suggests that the Chinese do not regard war with the US as likely at least until this summer.

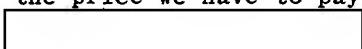
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fail. Chou asserted that in July or August, the US would launch a "gigantic offensive" and might even violate Chinese borders, but he declared that the US would never win because China would "fight to the last man" and might lose battles but would never lost a war.

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30 January 1966: In a letter to Ho Chi Minh, Chairman Liu Shao-chi pledged that the Chinese people "will stand by the fraternal Vietnamese people in a joint struggle to thoroughly defeat the US aggressors...whatever may be the price we have to pay."



Liu's pledge does not depart from the generalized promises of support Peking has been making since last fall.

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Selected Chinese
Public Statements

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Private Statements

Comments

4 February 1966: Vice Premier Po I-po declared at a Peking reception that the Chinese people "resolutely support the Vietnamese people in their just struggle and will contribute their part in thoroughly defeating US imperialism."

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Another version of Peking's generalized pledge of support for the Vietnamese.

[redacted]

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9 February 1966: Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Li Tien-yu declared "No matter how US imperialism threatens us, and no matter how far US imperialism may expand the war, we will unswervingly stand by the peoples of Korea, Vietnam and the whole world and do our part to defeat US imperialism thoroughly and bury that number one war criminal."

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Selected Chinese Communist References to Negotiations

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30 January 1966: The People's Daily declared that the DRV four-point formula "is the only correct way to arrive at a political settlement of the Vietnam question...there can be no bargaining about it." It added, "if the US aggressors truly desire a peaceful solution to the Vietnam question...they must recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation as the sole legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people and accepts its five-part statement. This is another point on which there is no room for bargaining."

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2 February 1966: A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement denouncing both resumption of bombing of the DRV and the US move to put the Vietnam question before the UN Security Council declared that the Vietnamese can neither "be deceived" by the US "peace talks plot" nor "cowed" by US escalation of the war. It asserted that the Vietnamese

Peking is reiterating its standard hard line on negotiations. The Chinese have recently been bearing down harder than ever on the theme of North Vietnamese determination in the war. This appears to be "insurance" against the possibility Hanoi might soften at some future date rather than a reflection of Chinese concern at any current development.

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Selected Chinese
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Comments

25X1 2 February 1966 Cont'd: "have frustrated" the US peace offensive and are "fighting still more valiantly than before."

25X1 2 February 1966: The People's Daily blasted the US move to raise the Vietnam problem at the UN Security Council asserting that the UN "has nothing at all to do with the Vietnam question" and that "no country has any right to ask for a UN discussion of this question." The editorial pledged the "firm support" of the Chinese people for the 1 February DRV Foreign Ministry statement rejecting the competence of the UN to deal with the question and reiterated Peking's position that the Vietnam question "can only be settled in accordance with the principles and spirit of the Geneva Agreements" which in present circumstances "find their expression" in the DRV four-point formula and the Liberation Front five-part statement.

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Selected North Vietnamese References to Negotiations

Selected DRV
Public Statements

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28 January 1966: DRV President Ho Chi Minh on 24 January sent a letter to the socialist countries and to other nations interested in the Vietnam situation. In part, the letter asserted that "So long as the US army of aggression still remains on our soil, our people will resolutely fight against it. If the US Government really wants a peaceful settlement, it must accept the four-point stand of the DRV Government and prove this by actual deeds; it must end unconditionally and for good all bombing raids and other war acts against the DRV. Only in this way can a political solution to the Vietnam problem be envisaged."

Ho's letter may, in part at least, had been intended to counter the recent US peace initiatives that brought American emissaries to many countries. His letter, which only restated the DRV position, was tailored to suit specific countries and to convince them of the correctness of the DRV position. For example, his letter to India addressed the Indian Government in its capacity as chairman of the ICC, while the letter to the UK spoke of the British role in the Geneva Conference.

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Pham Van Dong stated that "It is the unwavering stand of the DRV Government to strictly respect the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam and to correctly implement their basic provisions as correctly expressed in the

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Selected DRV
Public Statements

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28 January 1966 Cont'd: following points; (these followed the DRV's four points as made public 25X1 on 8 April 1965).

29 January 1966: In a commentary on President Ho Chi Minh's letter to several countries in which he insisted on the recognition of the DRV's four-points for a settlement of the war, Hanoi radio stated that "the opinions expressed by President Ho in his 24 January letter have bespoken the definite and unchanged stand of our government and people with regard to the settlement of the Vietnam problem." 25X1

30 January 1966: The North Vietnamese army daily, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, in an editorial asserted that "To solve the Vietnam question, the DRV Government on many occasions has expounded its four-point stand, which embodied the basic provisions of the 1954 Geneva agreements on Vietnam. This is the only basis to settle the Vietnam question. This stand is fully correct and justified, and it has won warm support from all progressive people. The stand of the Vietnamese people is imbued

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Selected DRV
Public Statements

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Private Statements

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30 January 1966 Cont'd: with
the brilliance of justice. US
imperialism fears justice as
an owl fears the sun. It does
not recognize the words or in-
deed the four-point stand of
the DRV Government and uses
all possible vicious means to
turn facts upside down."

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3 February 1966: The DRV
Foreign Ministry issued a
memorandum on the US peace ef-
fort. The document in part
asserted that "if the US Govern-
ment really wants a peaceful
settlement, it must recognize
the four point stand of the
Government of the DRV and
prove this by actual deeds.
It must end unconditionally
and for good all bombing raids
and other acts against the DRV.

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Only in this way can a politi-
cal solution to the Vietnam

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The memorandum offered a wrap-
up of recent DRV statements
on the situation in South
Vietnam and attempted to under-
cut recent US efforts at achiev-
ing a negotiated settlement of
the war. At the same time it
emphasized that the whole
four point stand of the DRV
must be accepted by the US be-
fore any settlement of the
conflict could be envisaged.

tained that "so long as bombing con-
tinued any discussions (on ending
the war) were out of the question."

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Selected DRV
Public Statements

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Hanoi has taken great pains throughout the last year to make evident its own position to nations that have offered to help bring the war to an end. Hanoi not ruled out such efforts but has insisted that they be made on DRV terms.

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Selected National Liberation Front References to Negotiations

<u>Selected Liberation Front Public Statements</u>	<u>Selected Liberation Front Private Statements</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<p><u>30 January 1966:</u> Liberation Radio in speaking of the "aggressive" US role in South Vietnam asserted that "The NFLSV, the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, clarified in stand in its statement of 22 March 1965. Any negotiations with US imperialism at the present time would be entirely in vain unless the US withdraws all US and satellite troops and means of war from South Vietnam, unless the South Vietnamese people's sacred rights to independence and democracy are not sacrificed to US imperialism by the traitorous Vietnamese country sellers, and unless the NFLSV, the only genuine representative of 14 million South Vietnamese people, can raise its decisive voice."</p>		<p>In recent weeks both Hanoi and the Liberation Front have emphasized that the role of the NFLSV will play a crucial role in any settlement of the war. The Communists have seen that this point is unpalatable to the US and have stressed that it must be accepted along with all other demands in the four points if a negotiated end to the war is to be achieved.</p>
<p><u>2 February 1966:</u> Liberation Radio in speaking of the fifth anniversary of the Front which occurred last December asserted that "the most correct path for the settlement of the problem of Vietnam is the implementation of the five points of the historic 22 March 1965 statement of the NFLSV and the four points of the 8 April DRV Government statement.</p>		

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